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Draft country programme document**

China

Summary

The Executive Director presents the draft country programme document for China for discussion and comments. The Executive Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of $61,035,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $40,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2006 to 2010.

* E/ICEF/2005/7.

** In accordance with Executive Board decision 2002/4 (E/ICEF/2002/8), the present document will be revised and posted on the UNICEF website in October 2005, together with the summary results matrix. It will then be approved by the Executive Board at its first regular session of 2006.

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Basic data† *(2003 unless otherwise stated)*	
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	369.2
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	33
Underweight (%, moderate and severe, 2002)	8
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	51
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female)	99/99[a]
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%, 2000/2001)	98
Use of improved drinking water sources (%, 2002)	77
Adult HIV prevalence rate (%)	0.1
Child work (%, children 5-14 years old)	—
GNI per capita (US$)	1 100
One-year-olds immunized against DPT3 (%)	90
One-year-olds immunized against measles (%)	84

† More comprehensive country data on children and women are available at www.unicef.org.
[a] Country-use definition.

The situation of children and women

1. China has continued to make remarkable progress towards realizing the rights of its children over the last five years. In 2001, the National Working Committee on Children and Women (NWCCW) reported that most of the 24 goals of the National Plan of Action for Children (NPA) in the 1990s had been reached, and set out an ambitious new programme for 2001-2010. China's spectacular economic progress is the impetus for many of these achievements, but of increasing concern is how to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits of growth. Striking a balance between economic and social development, between the advancing and lagging provinces (particularly those in the west of China), between urban and rural areas, between men and women, and between girls and boys, is the dominant theme of economic and social policy discourse.

2. While infant and under-five mortality continue to decline, the rate of reduction has slowed, and significant disparities remain among rural, western and migrant populations. Increasingly, infant deaths occur in the neonatal period; thereafter deaths through injuries take a greater toll. Although nationally 76 per cent of births take place in a hospital, there are considerable regional disparities in maternal mortality rates, and the goal to reduce these rates was one of the few unmet NPA targets for the 1990s. Although most children in China are food secure, stunting remains in the western provinces and in rural areas, and there are concerns about vitamin and mineral deficiencies in all parts of the country. At the same time, child obesity is an emerging problem.

3. There was significant progress in the 1990s in providing adequate sanitation and safe drinking water. However, while most urban homes have sanitary latrines, only 51 per cent of rural households have them. Inadequate sanitation in homes and schools, as well as poor hygiene practices, takes a continuous toll on the health of many children.

4. China plans to achieve compulsory basic education in areas that are home to 95 per cent of the population by 2010, and in areas with 85 per cent of the population for senior-secondary education by 2020. Although enrolment is already generally high, significant disparities in quality and access exist between provinces, between girls and boys, and among minority populations, including the children of migrants. In many less-developed areas, schools lack adequately trained teachers as well as the basic infrastructure that ensures a safe and healthy environment for learning. Central government spending on education has increased but not by enough to reach national targets.

5. The Government's plan for Education for All stresses the link between early childhood development (ECD) and basic education, noting, for example, that lack of school preparedness is a major reason for early dropout. The Government is promoting the establishment of private nursery schools and kindergartens, but a lack of trained teachers and the relatively high cost in less-developed areas limit access. There is a national model for ECD that is family-focused, community-based and inclusive of all relevant sectors. However, ensuring that the sectors work together remains a challenge.

6. China is witnessing massive internal migration: some 140 million people have left marginal rural and mountainous areas for urban centres in search of a better life, and their children are estimated to number over 20 million. The children who move with their parents sometimes face difficulties in accessing good-quality schools and health services, while those who stay behind with caregivers may drop out from school, suffer neglect or abuse, and lack emotional support.

7. The latest government estimates indicate that 840,000 people had HIV/AIDS, and 80,000 people were living with AIDS as of end 2003. Since 1999, there has been a 30 per cent annual rate of increase in reported HIV infections, and a doubling of the percentage of women infected. Surveillance data suggest that the epidemic is spreading into the general population from high-risk behaviour groups. As the epidemic matures in high-prevalence areas, increasing numbers of pregnant women are testing positive for HIV. In the same areas, children affected by HIV and AIDS confront stigma and the burden of caring for sick parents, and increasing numbers of children are contracting AIDS. The number of adolescents vulnerable to HIV is also increasing as the epidemic grows, particularly as many still lack access to the information, skills and supportive environments they need to protect themselves.

8. The 2000 census confirmed that there is a growing distortion in the sex ratio at birth: 117 boys are born for every 100 girls (10 points higher than normal). The reasons are complex but fundamentally stem from the discrimination females face in traditional Chinese culture.

9. China is a signatory to most major international conventions for the protection of children and has incorporated many principles of these conventions into Chinese law. However, the rapid pace of development is bringing new pressures, especially to the most vulnerable and marginalized families and children. The lack of good-quality data and information, the sensitivity surrounding the issues, and various forms of discrimination often work together to mask the situation of children who are abandoned, orphaned and live or work on the street, have disabilities, and are in conflict with the law and affected by migration. Concerns are growing about the moral development of young people and about enforcing laws to protect children from violence, abuse, trafficking and the worst forms of child labour.

10. China is prone to a range of natural disasters, including floods, droughts, earthquakes and snowstorms. In recent years, the capacity of the Government to adequately prepare for and respond to most natural disasters and emergencies has increased markedly.

11. The Government submitted its latest report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in June 2003. The Committee will discuss the report in September 2005, with pre-session consultations for interested parties and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) scheduled for June 2005.

Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 2001-2005

Key results achieved

12. The programme has achieved significant results against the four objectives set out in the previous country programme. Strategic advocacy and action in planning, implementing and monitoring the NPA was conducted with the NWCCW, and its leading role in research and studies was strengthened in emerging areas. As a result, critical issues (e.g., children of migrants, child injury, and violence against children) have become part of the national agenda for children, as evidenced in recent government reports.

13. Strategic partnerships have been expanded, including those providing access to critical decision-making bodies (e.g., the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) on the Five Year development plans) and outreach to children and adolescents (e.g., the Youth Federation). The scope of some traditional partners' interventions has broadened across the programme. Partnership with national academic institutions and experts contributed to the expansion of technical support (e.g., in safe motherhood, prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, a Learner Assessment Study). UNICEF has also played a leading role in facilitating inter-country partnerships (e.g., between the Governments of China, Viet Nam and Thailand for joint cross-border anti-trafficking projects, and the inter-regional partnership in arsenicosis mitigation).

14. Mobilization of other resources increased by almost 70 per cent between 2001 and 2004, primarily for the health and nutrition programme, but with gradual expansion to other programmes such as child protection. UNICEF provided strong technical assistance to new financing arrangements used to mobilize resources, for example, for hepatitis B vaccine and immunization (the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization), for HIV/AIDS (the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria), and for nutrition (the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and the Asian Development Bank). The programme contributed to increased financing for services for children by linking UNICEF input to several larger-scale funding opportunities. For example, support for water-source monitoring facilitated access to national funding for new water supply provision, and support for safe motherhood leveraged much larger national funds.

15. The programme supported the development or strengthening of national laws, policies and guidelines using various approaches, including the documenting of pilot approaches and models, networking with national experts, focused advocacy through the provision of high-level international expertise, and visits from senior

UNICEF officials. The results include inputs to new policies for ECD that influenced resource allocation and resulted in an increase of kindergarten enrolment from 39 to 50 per cent in project areas; foster care for orphaned and abandoned children; policies and services for children who live or work on the street and children of migrants; the development of a framework of support for natural-disaster emergency response, including for psychosocial interventions; and inclusion of PMTCT and free education for orphaned children in the "Four Frees and One Care" national policy on HIV/AIDS.

16. Pilot and model-building initiatives have also been replicated by the Government. Examples include PMTCT, scaled-up from one county in 2002 to 127 counties in 2004; safe motherhood, expanded from 42 to 500 high-risk counties in 2004; flour fortification, expanded from 2 to 100 trial factories in seven provinces; the Education Management Information System, scaled-up nationwide; the province-wide integration of textbooks developed under the local curriculum in all six project provinces; and the foster care initiative, introduced in eight project sites and now replicated nationwide.

17. An evaluation of the Local Planning and Action for Children programme demonstrated that it promoted effective interventions for women's empowerment. The networks created provided an excellent channel for the dissemination of health education materials. The dissemination of key health and development messages for children was also increased through the production of a Chinese version of *Facts for Life*, for use in all programmes as a communication and training tool, and the development of a media vehicle reaching "900 Million Farmers". Progress has been made in raising awareness of the NPA and in supporting the development and monitoring of local-level plans of action for children in project counties.

Lessons learned

18. A critical lesson is how the role of UNICEF is changing in the context of continued rapid economic growth and development marked by growing disparities. Over previous programme cycles, the major emphasis of UNICEF support shifted from service delivery to capacity-building and technical assistance. UNICEF is now poised to support improved policy development and the implementation of such policy through knowledge acquisition, advocacy, communication and planning in a child rights framework.

19. Experience has shown that influencing national-level policy making requires interventions that (a) respond to China's national priorities and international goals and standards (examples include safe motherhood, ECD, HIV/AIDS, family-based care for abandoned or orphaned children, and community-based residential care for children who live or work on the street); (b) are supported by a strong scientific or technical rationale (examples include the Learning Achievement Study, the flour fortification efficacy trial, the PMTCT pilot, the bilingual and bicultural approach to education for the deaf, psychosocial intervention in disasters); or (c) use an emerging issue of concern or crisis as a catalyst (for example, the investigation on safety standards in kindergartens and schools, and on SARS for epidemiological surveillance and response).

20. Pilot projects have successfully been scaled up when (a) their intended purpose was clear and translated into appropriate design, including the development of clear protocols and guidelines for implementation (e.g., primary health care, safe

motherhood, ECD, local curriculum, and foster care); (b) their value has been demonstrated by systematic monitoring, and results have been documented and shared through an effective dissemination strategy (e.g., ECD and School Development Planning, PMTCT and children orphaned by AIDS); and (c) there is a systematic policy-support process, in the absence of which replication by the Government may be limited.

21. Addressing complex issues generally requires a high degree of coordination among partners, multi-sectoral programming (e.g., HIV/AIDS, ECD, and girls' education) and increased convergence between sectoral programmes for improved efficiency and impact.

The country programme, 2006-2010

Summary budget table

	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
Programme	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Knowledge, advocacy and social policy for children	5 031	450	5 481
Health and nutrition	12 010	16 000	28 010
HIV/AIDS	5 880	6 700	12 580
Water and environmental sanitation	2 800	3 500	6 300
Education and child development	11 280	4 500	15 780
Child protection	7 950	4 400	12 350
Plans of action and promotion of child rights	6 842	4 450	11 292
Intersectoral programme	4 000	0	4 000
Cross-sectoral costs	5 242	0	5 242
Total	**61 035**	**40 000**	**101 035**

Preparation process

22. The Ministry of Commerce led the preparation process and brought together major Government counterpart Ministries, mass organizations and the NWCCW. The Government organized a national-level strategy meeting in February 2005 to identify development priorities and challenges as programme focus areas. The programme has drawn closely on the Common Country Assessment (CCA) for the overall analysis of the rapidly changing development situation in China, and the 2005 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

Goals, key results and strategies

23. The overall goal is to support the Government in promoting the respect for, and ensuring the realization of, the rights of all children in China. In support of China's contribution to meeting the targets of the Millennium Development Goals and the Millennium Declaration, the following key results are expected. First, improved policies will be developed and adopted for the realization of children's rights to survival, development and protection. Second, government and community

capacity to assess and analyse the situation of children, and to monitor the implementation of policies for the realization of their rights, will be enhanced. Third, the increasing impact of HIV/AIDS on children and women will be halted. Fourth, the capacity of government at all levels to provide quality basic services is enhanced through technical assistance. Fifth, China's experience in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child will be more widely shared, and its cooperation with and learning from other countries on children's issues will have increased.

24. The strategies adopted address the rights of children at different stages in their lives. The programme continues to focus on disparities in child survival and development. It also addresses emerging threats such as child injury and obesity. At the same time, it gives increased priority to enhancing child protection by tackling (a) a range of specific issues that affect the most vulnerable children, (b) issues relating to children affected by HIV/AIDS, and (c) the participation rights of children.

25. The programme will support policy dialogue through (a) advocacy based on knowledge acquired in high-quality studies and surveys on emerging or insufficiently understood issues, (b) international experience-sharing, and (c) the supporting and documenting of innovative pilot projects and best practices. Reporting on pilot projects by the time of the next mid-term review (MTR) will allow dissemination of information for replication by the Government and/or policy change during the remainder of the programme.

26. Advocacy for policy development will draw on leading international expertise combined with knowledge found in national academic institutions, and it will be guided by strategic national and international partnerships. The aim will be to ensure incorporation of critical child-related issues into the Five Year Development Plans. To support policy development, the programme will strengthen the capacity of counterparts at different levels in rights- and results-based programming, and in the acquisition of specific technical skills required for pilot-project development.

27. The programme will focus attention on the western provinces that are lagging in development progress while facilitating inter-provincial experience exchange. Urban areas will be included to address the growing conditions of poverty and social change affecting children. The programme will seek geographic convergence in a limited number of counties as a way to increase efficiency, enable inter-sectoral approaches and support implementation of provincial and county plans of action for children.

Relationship to national priorities and UNDAF

28. The NPA provides a framework for government action in realizing children's rights and has guided the development of the country programme. The NPA features specific, measurable goals in health and education, as well as more general objectives in child protection. UNICEF, as part of the United Nations country team, collaborated in developing the CCA with the Government, advocating strongly for paying adequate attention to issues of social protection. The UNDAF identified five outcome areas in support of China's national development priorities: (a) social and economic policies; developed and improved to be more scientifically based and human centred for sustainable and equitable growth; (b) enhance capacity for monitoring and evaluation of social policy implementation; (c) the promotion of

environmental sustainability; (d) combating HIV/AIDS; and (e) the facilitation of China's role in international cooperation. The country programme contributes to all five outcomes but focuses particularly on enhancing social policy development and monitoring its implementation, and on combating HIV/AIDS.

Relationship to international priorities

29. In its increasing emphasis on social policy analysis, knowledge and advocacy, as well its continuing support to national efforts in children's health, education and protection, the programme contributes to all focus areas of the draft medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) of UNICEF 2006-2009. The programme's emphasis on disparity reduction in access to and quality of basic health care, sanitation and education services (particularly in western China and rural areas, and for children affected by migration, and girls) supports national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in education, infant and maternal mortality reduction, and gender equality. Through its emphasis on halting the increasing impact of HIV/AIDS on children and women, the programme addresses the targets of both the Goals and the MTSP.

30. Previous UNICEF cooperation contributed to poverty alleviation including through projects that covered microcredit for rural women. Such projects will be phased out, while lessons learned from them will be shared with institutions able to take them to scale. The Government itself will pay increasing attention to income poverty-alleviation, supported by international organizations with comparative advantage in this area, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank.

Programme components

Knowledge, advocacy and policy development for children

31. The challenges facing children in a rapidly developing China require enhanced efforts to acquire and disseminate solid and reliable knowledge on the situation of children and to strengthen communication for advocacy to influence policy, build support for children's issues, and create alliances. Guided by the NWCCW, this programme will conduct research and analysis on the commitments to, policies on and results for children, and will support research in the health, education and child protection programmes. It will also advocate for the global children's agenda based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the national priorities in the NPA, paying increased attention to issues of child protection, participation, and gender discrimination. Efforts will go towards strengthening capacity-building and partnerships with other organizations: United Nations agencies, academic and research institutes, mass organizations with community outreach such as the All China Women's Federation, young people's NGOs, and mass media (especially those used by youth and children, such as television and the Internet, including the global and national UNICEF websites in Chinese). The programme will identify and support national and international opportunities for sharing best practices and lessons learned from China's significant experience in achieving goals for children, and will introduce into China innovation and global norms in child rights programming.

Health and nutrition

32. China faces a double challenge in aiming to reduce disparities in access to health and nutrition services and information, especially regarding neonatal mortality, while also dealing with emerging issues such as child injury, over-nutrition, and adolescent health. The health and nutrition programme will gather evidence to support the development of policies and guidelines that (a) ensure equitable access to an essential package of maternal and child health care (MCH) and nutrition, particularly for girls; (b) promote marketing of essential health commodities such as iodized salt; and (c) provide information to households to create demand for services and improve care practices.

33. The programme will focus on western provinces and cities with large migrant populations. The maternal and child health, nutrition and immunization projects will contribute to more integrated, convergent and efficient interventions, as well as to the adaptation of national programmes strategies (for example, in immunization and control of iodine deficiency disorders) to serve marginalized populations. The prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, and the care and treatment of children with HIV will be integrated into MCH services. UNICEF will promote awareness about the importance of, and develop guidelines for, dealing with emerging threats in health and nutrition. These strategies will be complemented by capacity-building of counterparts, technical support, multi-sectoral cooperation and networking with national experts and academic institutions, advocacy for scaling-up and replication, support to knowledge acquisition and operational research.

34. The principal programme counterpart is the Ministry of Health; other major partners are the World Health Organization for MCH, immunization and nutrition; the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for safe motherhood and adolescent lifestyles; and other members of the United Nations theme group on health for financing and health reform issues.

HIV/AIDS

35. The programme will support "child-centred" HIV/AIDS policy development, implementation, assessment and resource mobilization for (a) the care, treatment and protection of children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS; and (b) a reduction in children's vulnerability to HIV, including the stigma and discrimination experienced by children and families.

36. The programme focus areas include (a) PMTCT, and care and treatment for children living with HIV; (b) the care, protection and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS; (c) a reduction of children's vulnerability to HIV; and (d) planning, monitoring and coordination for children affected by HIV/AIDS. The main strategies will be knowledge acquisition and dissemination, the development of strategic information on children's vulnerability, local capacity-building, partnerships and children's participation. The main counterparts will be the State Council Working Committee on HIV/AIDS, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Education, and the China National Committee for Care of Children. HIV/AIDS activities will be coordinated and implemented cross-sectorally to promote integrated policy and guidelines development, in close collaboration with the United Nations theme group on HIV/AIDS.

Water and environment sanitation

37. The programme aims to address poor water quality and limited access to child-friendly and environmentally-appropriate sanitation infrastructure in rural homes and schools. New standards for rural school sanitation infrastructure, including access to hand-washing facilities and drinking water, will be developed. Support will be provided for the development of national policies, standards and guidelines through the gathering of evidence and sharing of best practices and experience, within China and regionally. Gains made in the control of arsenic and fluoride poisoning will be consolidated and extended through the development of a communication strategy on water quality issues, and by the strengthening of surveillance and monitoring capacity.

38. Existing partnerships with WHO and the World Bank on rural sanitation, hygiene and water quality issues will be strengthened and regional networks expanded to advocate with government leadership for the adoption of new policies in these areas.

Education and child development

39. Disparities in the quality of basic education, uneven standards in learner assessment and outcomes, and gender inequality in school attendance and completion rates remain key challenges, especially in western China. Using past innovative approaches and lessons learned, the programme will gather evidence for and lend support to the development of national policies and sub-national plans to reduce education disparities related to sex and ethnicity, and among children affected by migration, The programme will promote the Government's goal of "human-centred" and "well-rounded development of all children". Projects will use piloting and operational research for the development of national standards and guidelines. Included are four areas: (a) child-friendly, healthy and safe pre- and primary-schools; (b) learning and information centres for out-of-school children; (c) developmental milestones and learner assessments; (d) school management for a safe, healthy and gender-sensitive learning environment; and (e) monitoring and sustaining educational planning and school and learner standards.

40. Quality assurance at the lowest administrative levels will be enhanced through capacity-building. Inter- and multi-sectoral coordination will be strengthened for nationwide advocacy on parenting practices, the acceleration of girls' education, life skills for emergency preparedness, vulnerability reduction (especially to HIV/AIDS) and the development of compulsory education-criteria for school sanitation and safety. Reviews of teaching materials and curricula for gender-sensitivity and the supply of teaching, play and creativity-promoting materials will strengthen the inclusiveness of child-friendly school standards. Support for policy development will be backed by studies, surveillance on data quality, participatory and consultative networks, and advocacy.

41. Partnerships will extend beyond the Ministry of Education and the China Association of Science and Technology to include the NDRC, NWCCW and research institutions. Inter-agency partnerships, in particular with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Bank, will be expanded to cover life skills education, learning assessments and the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative.

Child protection

42. The programme addresses three major areas of concern within the context of the rapid socio-economic transformation occurring in China. First, the development of improved child protection systems and networks at community and higher levels, including for emergency preparedness, and the development of a rights-based juvenile justice system. Second, the prevention of and responses to trafficking, violence against children, and injury. Third, the protection of children affected by HIV/AIDS, children with disabilities, and children without caregivers (including children who are abandoned, orphaned, and live or work on the street).

43. The programme strategies include the creation of solid knowledge bases on child protection issues and the filling of information gaps as well as the pursuit of advocacy and policy-development based on the results of research and proven pilot projects. Emphasis will also be placed on capacity-building activities, particularly in rights-based and results-based programming, and communication and media outreach. The cross-sectoral nature of the issues dealt with in the child protection, education and HIV/AIDS programmes will require strong collaboration.

44. Major partners will include the National People's Congress, NWCCW, Supreme Peoples' Procuratorate, the All China Women's Federation, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Justice. Other governmental organizations and NGOs will participate as appropriate. UNICEF support will link closely with that of United Nations agencies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), and other international NGOs in relevant areas.

Plans of action and promotion of child rights

45. China is a leading example of a country using national and sub-national plans to set goals and targets for children's health, education and protection. The programme will continue to support the NWCCW and the National Bureau of Statistics in monitoring and evaluating implementation of the current NPA and in developing the next one. The programme will (a) support continuing situation analyses of the millions of children affected by migration, both those who move and those who are left behind, (b) pilot innovative strategies for addressing the special challenges they face, and (c) contribute to policy development. The programme will also promote child rights-based approaches in national communication campaigns of the All China Women's Federation to address discrimination against girls as well as family education.

46. The Local Planning and Action for Children programme will become a project focused on strengthening the capacity of local governments to efficiently manage and sustain access to microcredit for poor rural women in the current 34 project counties over three years. UNICEF will not fund new microcredit but will instead emphasize cementing improvements to the loan-tracking system. In addition, the project will also support implementation of local plans of action for children in a number of poor counties.

Cross-sectoral costs

47. This area covers overall support to programme planning, monitoring and evaluation and includes the supply and procurement operation, which also services

other countries. Communication activities in support of the country programme and various ancillary costs are also included. Under the inter-sectoral programme, a reserve of $4 million is proposed to ensure a flexible response to emerging needs as well as innovative approaches.

Major partnerships

48. The country programme will increase the number and diversity of partnerships. The UNDAF has highlighted opportunities for collaboration with United Nations agencies, including WHO and UNFPA for children's health; members of the United Nations theme group on HIV/AIDS; and ILO and the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region regarding child labour and trafficking. Existing partnerships with media for advocacy and knowledge-dissemination will expand, and new relationships with web-based media will be developed. The programme will seize opportunities to work with the emerging NGO sector in China, particularly in challenging areas such as child protection and participation. Partnerships with bilateral agencies for policy development in key areas will increase, such as those with the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the World Bank on sanitation, and the Asian Development Bank on nutrition. Advocacy and fund-raising partnerships with the private sector and National Committees for UNICEF will focus on issues such as HIV/AIDS, child injury prevention, nutrition, MCH, and ECD.

Monitoring, evaluation and programme management

49. China has a strong national statistical system, including regular censuses and surveys, for gathering data on the situation of children and tracking key indicators. However, national capacity for disaggregated data analysis, particularly on variables such as sex and ethnicity, needs strengthening, and will be a focus of support. UNICEF has supported the adaptation of *DevInfo* at the national level into *NPAInfo* as a tool for monitoring progress towards the NPA goals, and will further support its use at sub-national levels.

50. The programme will give increased attention to monitoring and evaluation through the development of an integrated monitoring and evaluation plan that focuses on measuring results for children, especially in relation to the overall programme goal of influencing policy development through the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. The rapid pace of development will make the MTR a key milestone for the China country programme, providing an opportunity to focus cooperation on priority issues and identify those no longer needing support. In advance of the MTR, UNICEF and counterparts will evaluate programme innovations relating to knowledge, advocacy and policy analysis.

51. The Ministry of Commerce coordinates the country programme through regular liaison with line ministries and the management of UNICEF China. The country programme will strengthen its links with NWCCW to monitor the overall situation of children in China and to identify new and emerging issues of concern. UNICEF China will continue to support the process of United Nations reform and will have a key role in monitoring implementation of the UNDAF and updating the CCA.